

INTRODUCTION

In Arizona, the Department of Economic Security, Division of Child Support Enforcement (DCSE), administers child support enforcement services. In eight Arizona counties these services are provided locally by DCSE. In five counties these services are provided by the local County Attorney’s office and in two of the counties a private contractor, Child Support Services of Arizona, works for DCSE to provide the services.

Some recipients of Medical Assistance are required to cooperate with DCSE in establishing paternity, support orders and enforcement of a support order. Ask your eligibility worker if you are exempt from the requirement to cooperate with DCSE. If you are applying for medical assistance only, on behalf of a child and not yourself, you may have the right to choose whether or not you wish to have your case referred to your local child support enforcement office. You may also choose to make an application for these services at a later date.

Applying for child support services is a very important decision. Before making this decision, please read the following information about the services available and how DCSE can assist you and your children.

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

Paternity establishment – For children who do not have a legal father paternity establishment is an important service. It can provide basic emotional, social and economic ties between a father and his child. The establishment of paternity gives a child a sense of identity. It

gives a child a complete medical history of both their mother and father’s families. Once paternity is legally established, a child gains legal rights and privileges. Among these may be rights to inheritance, the father’s medical and life insurance benefits, social Security and possibly veteran’s benefits. The child has a chance to develop a relationship with the father and to develop a sense of identity and connection with the “other half” of his or her family. Also, it may be important for the health of the child for doctors to have knowledge of the father’s medical history. In addition, the establishment of paternity is necessary to establish a court order for child support payments.

Support order establishment – This service is available for all children who have a legal parent that does not live with them or provide support for them. It is necessary to have a legal support order spelling out the amount of the obligation and how it is to be paid. Arizona has established mandatory child support guidelines that consider the needs of the child, the absent parent’s ability to pay based on income, and other dependents the absent parent is required to support. The establishment of support provides both financial and medical assistance for the child. The court decides how much financial support is to be paid and which parent is responsible for providing health insurance.

Enforcement of a court order – If you already have a court order requiring the payment of support and provision of health insurance, your local child support enforcement office can take steps to enforce the collection of the support and enrollment of your child in a health plan.

Based on the specifics of your case DCSE can:

- Issue a wage assignment to an employer to withhold current support and unpaid support from the absent parent’s paycheck.
- Issue a medical support notice to enroll your child(ren) in a health plan provided by the employer
- Intercept federal and state income tax refunds for payment of unpaid support
- Intercept unemployment insurance benefits for current and unpaid support
- Request the denial of a passport to the parent who owes support
- Report the amount of unpaid support to credit reporting agencies
- Request the intercept of lottery winnings
- Request the services of a private collection agency that works for DCSE
- Seize amounts of unpaid support from personal checking and savings accounts in a financial institution
- Contact the state in which the other parent lives and request child support enforcement services from that state
- Request that the court review your court order for possible modification of the order
- Obtain a court-ordered judgment
- Place a lien on the personal and real property of the parent who owes unpaid child support
- Request the suspension of professional, occupational, driver and recreational licenses held by the parent who owes unpaid child support

Location services – If you do not know where the absent parent of your child is, the local child

support enforcement office can use an extensive range of databases to find the absent parent. Once the absent parent is located, establishment or enforcement actions can be taken on your behalf.

INFORMATION FROM YOU

The child support enforcement office needs to have the following information to establish or enforce your order:

- Exact name and date of birth for both parents and the child(ren)
- Social security numbers for both parents and the child(ren), if known
- Information on last known address of the absent parent and their employer, if known

COSTS

Arizona does not charge the person entitled to receive support any fees for delivery of child support enforcement services, **with one exception.** If your case requires DCSE to work with a child support enforcement agency in another state, the other state may require you to be responsible for fees or costs associated with the establishment and enforcement of support. If the parent who owes support is in another state, you can ask your caseworker about the possible costs involved in working with that state.

In Arizona, the person who owes a child support obligation may be charged fees. If paternity is an issue and the alleged father requests genetic testing to prove paternity, the alleged father will be charged the testing fee if the test proves he is the father. In addition, state law also requires that the person who owes support pay a monthly processing fee for processing all payments

received by the State Central Payment Processing unit.

CONFIDENTIALITY

All information that DCSE receives from you, including the address and social security number for you and your child(ren) is kept confidential.

However, the address and social security numbers for you and your child(ren) are required by the court in all pleadings and motions that are filed for court action. In addition, the Federal Case Registry of all child support cases requires this information to assist all states in their location efforts.

And, a medical insurance carrier will request the social security numbers and address for the child(ren) to be covered by the health plan.

If you have concerns for the safety of you and your child(ren) you may request the right of Non Disclosure. DCSE will send you the appropriate forms to make this claim and provide us with supporting information.

Receipt and approval of this claim will prevent the use of the address and social security numbers of you and your child(ren) in court order documents. It will also prevent the release of your personal identifying information to the Federal Case Registry of all child support cases. It will require that a medical insurance carrier contact DCSE to obtain the social security numbers of the child(ren) to be covered, send the plan identification card and additional information to DCSE to be forwarded to you.

Local Area Child Support Offices:

Apache County
DCSE Flagstaff Office
Phone: (928) 527-0924
(800) 517-7365

Cochise County Child
Support Services of AZ
Phone: (520) 432-3161
Toll Free (866)358-0616

Coconino County
Flagstaff DCSE Office
Phone: (928) 527-0924
(800) 517-7365

Gila County
Attorney’s Office
Child Support Division
Phone: (928) 425-4464

Graham County
Safford DCSE Office
Phone: (928) 428-6648

Greenlee County
Safford DCSE Office
Phone: (928) 428-6648

La Paz County
Attorney’s Office
Phone: (928) 669-6469

Maricopa County
All Local Offices
Phone: (602) 252-4045
(800) 882-4151

Mohave County
Kingman DCSE Office
Phone: (928) 753-3134

Navajo Nation
Department of Child
Support Services
Phone: (520) 674-2300

Pima County
Tucson DCSE Office
Phone: (520) 622-7000

Pinal County
Attorney’s Office
Phone: (520) 868-6615

Santa Cruz
Child Support Services
of Arizona
Phone: (520) 761-4787

Yavapai County Child
Support Services of
Arizona
Phone: (928) 771-1090

Yavapai Child Support
Services of Arizona
Phone: (928) 639-3131

Yuma County
Yuma DCSE Office
Phone: (928) 539-1998

Navajo County
Attorney’s Office
Phone: (928) 524-4730

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Department must make a reasonable accommodation to allow a person with a disability to take part in a program, service, or activity. For example, this means that if necessary, the Department must provide sign language interpreters for people who are deaf, a wheelchair accessible location, or enlarged print materials. It also means that the Department will take any other reasonable action that allows you to take part in and understand a program or activity, including making reasonable changes to an activity. If you believe that you will not be able to understand or take part in a program or activity because of your disability, please let us know of your disability needs in advance if at all possible. This document is available in alternative formats by contacting (602) 252-4045.



CHILD SUPPORT
ENFORCEMENT AND
MEDICAL
ASSISTANCE ONLY

Department of Economic Security
Division of Child Support
Enforcement

Equal Opportunity
Employer/Program
Disponibile en español